

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are pending in the application. Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3 and cancelled non-method claims 9-20 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by claims 1-20 prior to this Amendment is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 3 were amended and claims 9-20 were cancelled in this Amendment solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the pending claims. Applicants respectfully reserves the right to pursue claims, including the subject matter encompassed by claims 1-20 as presented prior to this Amendment and additional claims, in one or more continuing applications.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Taylor for indicating that claims 3, 4, 11, 12, and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable dependent claim 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 and dependent claims 2, and 5-8 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 13-17, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(c) as being anticipated by Ingersoll et al. (U.S. Patent 7,047,488). Applicants respectfully traverse, but, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to place it in condition for allowance. Claims 9-20 have been cancelled, and the rejection is moot as to these cancelled claims.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims are patentable. Should any additional fees be required beyond those paid, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0460.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact her at (310) 553-7973 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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